

## **Population structure of Volga Tatars inferred from the mitochondrial DNA diversity data**

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### **Abstract**

The data on mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) variation in two populations of Volga Tatars, representing the population of Buinsk and Aznakaevo districts of the Republic of Tatarstan are presented. Comparative analysis of the data on mtDNA variation in the populations of Eastern Europe showed that Volga Tatars were characterized by low interpopulation differentiation ( $F_{ST} = 0.33\%$ ), while the level of interethnic differentiation in Eastern Europe is 1.8%. Genetic similarity of Tatars from the eastern regions of Tatarstan to Bashkirs, as well as of Tatars from western regions to Chuvashes, with whom they share territorial borders, was revealed. Positive correlation between population genetic structure in Eastern Europe and linguistic affiliation of the ethnic groups studied was observed. © 2011 Pleiades Publishing, Ltd.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1134/S1022795411020086>

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